

'He Looked at Me and Walked Away'

CIA Employee Plunges 7 Stories to Death

CPYRGHT

A 68-year-old Central Intelligence Agency employe plunged seven floors to his death from the roof of his apartment building at 3020 Idaho-av nw early today, police said.

They said the body of Archibald S. Deas was found on a garage roof in the rear of the Idaho Terrace apartments.

Mr. Deas' wife, Claire, said her husband had not been to bed, and police think he spent the night on the roof.

'EXPLOSION'

A neighbor looking out her window saw the body about 7 a. m., but police think the plunge took place about 5:30, when other neighbors reported hearing what sounded like an explosion.

Alice Ladley, the building's resident manager, said Mr. Deas "had not seemed well recently."

Police said Mr. Deas was a Christian Scientist, and had no health records.

DESPONDENT

No notes were found, but Mr. Deas had been "despondent for some time," they said.

A porter at the apartment, Joseph Short, 56, Negro, said he saw Mr. Deas standing on a chair on the roof yesterday morning.

"I asked him 'What are you doing up there this early?'" he said, "and he just looked at me and walked away."

FROM CHINA

Mr. Short said Mr. Deas and his wife moved into the apartment about four years ago. Their trunks had been sent from China, he said. Mr. Deas worried about his wife a great deal, Mr. Short said. She couldn't stand noises, and acted like she was "shell-shocked," he said.

The Deas, who had no children, kept to themselves, apartment residents said.

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